

**October 18, 2026**

**Series: “Romans: The Gospel according to Paul”**

**Sermon: “The Wrath of God”**

**Scripture: Romans 1:18-23**

**Introduction**



**A. In the next section of Paul’s letter to the church in Rome (1:18-3:20), he wrote about man’s universal sin problem.**

**B. This reality is a bigger problem than most people realize. The Bible teaches us that God is good, holy, and righteous. “How can that be a problem for me? If God is good, surely He will be nice to me.”**

**C. The answer to that question is very simple: You are not good, holy, or righteous. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).**

**D. God’s justice demands satisfaction for every sin. Not one sin will be overlooked, swept under the rug, or ignored. Every sin will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in hell.**

**E. Wrath is God’s righteous response to sin. It is not an out of control burst of anger from God. It’s not God flying off the handle or losing control of His temper.**

**F. Wrath is God’s settled disposition toward sin. It is the “holy revulsion of God’s being against that which is a contradiction of his Holiness” (John Murray).**

**G. “So then, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Corinthians 5:11a).**

**H. Big Idea: God’s wrath ought to motivate us to proclaim the gospel to the lost.**

**I. God Is Revealing His Wrath against Sin (1:18)**

**A. “For” connects verse 18 with what comes before it. It is necessary for God to reveal His righteousness in the gospel because He is revealing His wrath against sin.**

**B. “He starts with the wrath of God, not with the needs of the people as such, not with the things which were worrying them, not with that sin which gets them down, which they cannot overcome, nor with their unhappiness, and so on. Not at all! He does not mention these things. Instead, He speaks of the wrath of God” (Martyn Lloyd-Jones).**

**C. “The wrath of God” is the settled, determined response of a righteous God against sin. God’s anger is the only response that a holy God can have toward evil. He must punish sin in order to be righteous and holy.**

**D. “God could not be holy and not be angry at sin. Holiness cannot tolerate unholiness” (John MacArthur).**

**E. “Is revealed from heaven.” God’s wrath is constantly being made known. It is a present reality. God’s judgment of sin is not limited to the future (Romans 2:5).**

**F. God reveals His wrath in two ways. First, He reveals His wrath indirectly through the natural consequences of violating His universal moral law.**

**G. Second, He reveals His wrath through personal intervention.**

**H. “Against all ungodliness.” Ungodliness refers to a lack of reverence and respect for the Lord our Creator.**

**I. “Unrighteousness of men.” Ungodliness always leads to unrighteousness. It is a lack of conformity in thought, word, and deed to the character and law of God.**

**J. “Who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” It is not that the truth is sought but cannot be found, but rather that, confronted with the truth (which is “clearly seen” according to verse 20), fallen man seeks to hinder and obstruct its influence, and is therefore “without excuse” (1:20).**

**K. Sinful man does not want to recognize the truth that God is Creator of all things, including them. They want to do what they want to do and not worry about eternal judgment.**

## **II. God Has Revealed Himself in Creation and We Are Accountable to Him (1:19-20)**

**A. “Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.”**

**B. “God has stitched into the fabric of the human mind his existence and power, so that they are instinctively recognized when one views the created order” (Tom Schreiner).**

**C. This knowledge about God seen in nature is called natural revelation. It is also called general revelation because it is available to everyone. Natural or general revelation is revealed to all people in all places at all times.**

**D. “For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made.”**

**E. His “eternal power” refers to God’s omnipotence. God is the Creator who made all that we see around us and He constantly sustains it.**

**F. His “divine nature” refers to His faithfulness, kindness, and graciousness.**

**G. The invisible Creator is revealed through the visible creation.**

**H. “God therefore has never left himself without a witness. His existence and perfections have ever been so manifested that his rational creatures are bound to acknowledge and worship him as the true and only God” (Charles Hodge).**

**I. God’s revelation of Himself in creation is “clearly seen” by everyone, “being understood through what has been made.”**

**J. “So that they are without excuse.” There is nothing they can say to God when they stand before Him. They have no legal defense before God.**

**K. Evidence for God’s existence is never the problem. The problem is our sinful heart. We refuse to acknowledge God.**

**L. Nevertheless, we all will appear before Him in judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)**

**III. God Created Everything for His Glory but We Do Not Worship Him As We Ought (1:21-23)**

**A. “For even though they knew God.” Every human being is conscious of God’s existence, power, and divine nature through general revelation.**

**B. “They did not glorify Him as God or give thanks.” To glorify God is to honor Him, acknowledge Him for His attributes, and praise Him for His perfections. Sinful man does not give God the glory He deserves and does not thank Him for every good gift.**

**C. Although we are innately conscious of God’s existence and power, we are also innately and wickedly inclined to reject that knowledge.**

**D. “But they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened.” When we reject God, life becomes empty and meaningless. What a horrible commentary on fallen humanity. Our foolish heart cannot understand the truth of God and becomes further enslaved to sin.**

**E. The word “heart” refers to the control center of your life. When our hearts are darkened, not only is our moral judgment darkened, but our intellect and reasoning ability is also affected by sin.**

**F. “Professing to be wise, they became fools.” Asserting themselves to be wise about God, the universe, and themselves, they became greater fools.**

**G. “And exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the likeness of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”**

**H. In our spiritual blindness, intellectual darkness, and moral depravity, we are by nature inclined to reject the holy Creator and worship the unholy creature.**

### **Conclusion**

**A. We are born under God’s wrath and judgment because God has revealed Himself to all mankind, we all have willfully rejected Him, we have rationalized our sin, and we have perverted our worship of the true God.**

**B. Paul is making the case that we are all sinners and rightly deserve the wrath of God and that there is absolutely nothing we can do to right ourselves with God.**

**C. It is true that God’s wrath abides on the lost now (John 3:36) and there is also a future day of wrath coming (Romans 2:5).**

**D. What hope do we have? Thank God for Jesus!**

**E. In the fullness of time, the Son of God became a man and walked on this earth in perfect obedience to the law of God.**

**F. At the end of His life, and according to the will of the Father, He was crucified by wicked men.**

**G. On the cross, He stood in the place of His guilty people, and their sin was imputed to Him. As the Sin-Bearer, He became accursed of God, forsaken by God, and crushed under the weight of God’s wrath.**

**H. His death paid the debt for sin, satisfied the demands of God’s justice, and appeased His wrath. God solved the great dilemma. He has justly punished the sins of His people in the death of His only Son and therefore may freely justify everyone who places their hope in Him.**

**I. The Father resurrected Jesus from death to demonstrate that He accepted His Son’s death on behalf of His people.**

**J. Unbeliever, repent and believe the gospel. (The Gospel Definition)**

**K. Believer, God’s wrath ought to motivate us to proclaim the gospel to the lost.**